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## GERMANS PAUSE IN THEIR DRIVE AGAINST VERDUN

May Bring Up Re-Enforcements  
for Continuance  
of Attack.

## BIG GUNS EXCHANGING SHELLS AT MANY POINTS

French Retake Portion of Ground  
Between Bethincourt and  
Cumieres.

## MUCH ACTIVITY AROUND VAUX

Petrograd Reports Remarkable Progress  
of Russian Troops  
in Persia.

The German Crown Prince army has apparently paused to take breath or bring up re-enforcements for a continuance of the advance against the Verdun fortress and its outlying defenses. Meanwhile, the big guns are exchanging shells at various points along the entire line from Belgium to the Vosges Mountains.

The latest assault by the German infantry between Bethincourt and Cumieres resulted in the winning of important positions, but by counter-attacks the French succeeded in retaking a portion of the ground, and, according to the official statement of the French War Office, French troops still hold Bethincourt, the height of Le Mort Homme and the village of Cumieres wood, all positions of great strategic importance.

To the east of Verdun there has been considerable activity around Vaux and Lamouille, and fighting at these points is still in progress around the eastern slopes of Fort Vaux, which for days past has been the object of some of the hardest fighting.

## FRENCH TAKE TRENCH SOUTH OF ST. SOUPLET

The French have taken a German trench south of St. Souplet, which indicates that in the Champagne region the fighting forces are still endeavoring to take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen their lines.

Advances from Petrograd describe remarkable progress in Persia of the Russian troops, who are moving swiftly over difficult roads and in the face of considerable opposition towards the Mesopotamian frontier, where shortly they expect to be in touch with the British forces at Kut-el-Amara and the relieving column under Generals Lake and Ascher.

The Russians are now said to be within fifty miles of the last difficult pass which will place them in the rear of the Turkish Bagdad army, and their object is to cut the railway to the north, thereby preventing the Turkish army from receiving supplies, and co-operate with the British against Bagdad.

In their advance against the Turks along the Black Sea littoral toward Trebizond the Russians have captured additional Turkish officers and men and two machine guns. A British column has attacked an advanced position of the Turks in Mesopotamia, bayoneted a considerable number of the Turks and captured others.

## ITALIANS SHELLING AUSTRIAN POSITIONS

In the Austro-Italian zone the Italians are vigorously shelling Austrian positions, and have and there throwing their infantry into the fray. No marked changes in the line have occurred, however.

The British have captured the port of Sollum, in West Egypt, from the Senusi tribesmen, led by Turkish officers, with only slight resistance. Afterward, they pursued the fleeing tribesmen and captured officers, men and guns.

In East Africa, the Boer General Smuts is actively pursuing the Germans, who are reported to be retreating southward along the Tanga railway.

A semi-official dispatch from Berlin says an investigation by the German admiralty has disclosed the fact that no German submarine sank the Norwegian bark Silmus, on which there were a number of Americans, in the Haver Renshaw.

During the illness of General Gallieni, the French Minister of War, his post will be filled by Rear-Admiral Le Gaze, Minister of Marine.

## GERMANS MARK IMPORTANT GAINS IN VERDUN FIGHTING

BERLIN, March 15 (via London).—Important gains for the Germans in the Verdun fighting west of the Meuse were announced to-day by the War Office. It is said the Germans pushed forward their lines west of Corbeaux wood and on the height of Le-Mort-Homme, capturing more than 1,000 prisoners.

The statement follows:  
"Western front: Near Neuve-Chapelle we blew up an advanced defense position with the occupants. British artillery directed a heavy fire on Lens.

"French artillery is very active opposite our new positions near Ville-aux-Hols and opposite various sectors of the Champagne."

"On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front), Silesian troops, with a strong swarming onslaught, pushed forward their lines in the region west of Corbeaux wood on the heights of Le-Mort-Homme. Twenty-five officers and more than 1,000 unarmored men were captured. A counter-attack, four times repeated, gave the French no success whatsoever. They suffered very considerable losses.

"On the right bank of the Meuse and on the eastern slopes of the hills, artillery on both sides kept up a bitter duel without interruption.

"In the Vosges, the French undertook numerous small attacks with reconnoitering parties, which were repulsed."

## Von Tirpitz Reported as Quitting Navy Post

LONDON, March 15.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen, says the Wolff Bureau, the German semi-official news agency, announces that Alfred von Tirpitz, German Minister of the Navy, has retired, and that Admiral von Capelle, director of the administration Department of the Admiralty, has been appointed his successor.

## MAY BUILD SUBMARINE IN A WEEK, SAYS EDISON

Urges Construction of Great Government Laboratory for Development of War Equipment.

INITIAL COST TO BE \$1,500,000

Several Members of Civilian Naval Advisory Board Appear Before House Military Committee and Explain Advantages.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Construction of a great government laboratory for development of submarines, aeroplanes and other war equipment was advocated before the House Military Committee to-day by Thomas A. Edison and other members of the Civilian Naval Advisory Board. Mr. Edison said a properly equipped establishment with an initial cost of \$1,500,000 would make possible experiments for standardization of submarine designs, for instance, which might enable builders to turn out a submarine in a week, instead of the many months now required.

Other members of the board who appeared were Howard Coffin, W. L. Saunders, A. M. Hunt and Dr. L. H. Backlund. Dr. Backlund, who was appointed to the board on recommendation of the Chemical Society, said one of the most excellent advantages of a laboratory would be the supplying of adequate means of fixing of atmospheric nitrogen for use in making explosives. The processes used by German chemists, he said, were well known in this country, yet the United States was still dependent on Chile for its nitrate supply.

## PLAN FOR MOBILIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

Mr. Coffin outlined a canvass the board is making of how the country's industrial resources might be mobilized for defense. He said a report probably would be ready by May. Mr. Saunders urged that the advisory board be legalized, and Mr. Hunt, a civil engineer, read a statement emphasizing the advantages of a laboratory from an engineering standpoint. The scientists declared that an experimental plant financed by the government and backed by the best scientific skill of the country, would be valuable not alone as a preparatory measure, but would make possible many steps forward in industrial development. One suggested that great things might be accomplished in perfecting the aeroplane, and another said a proper application of science to shipping might revolutionize the merchant marine.

It was urged that the proposed laboratory be under administration of the Navy Department, though many members of the board were in favor of its being under the War Department.

## DAVIS FUNERAL AT ELKINS

Chief Justice White and Andrew Carnegie Among Honorary Pallbearers.

ELKINS, W. VA., March 15.—The funeral of Henry Clay Davis, former United States Senator, who died in Washington, was held here to-day in the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church. The services were conducted by the Rev. Frederick H. Barton, for fifteen years Senator Davis' pastor. The honorary pallbearers were Chief Justice White, of the United States Supreme Court, Andrew Carnegie, Solicitor-General John W. Davis, Charles W. W. Van, General John W. Foster, Washington, Senator John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, Richard C. Kerens, St. Louis, Mo.; Arthur Gorman, son of the late Senator Gorman, of Maryland, and Charles C. Glover, of Washington. The active pallbearers were employees or former employees of the Davis interests.

Business was suspended here, while the funeral services were in progress, and all business buildings were draped in black.

Members of his family, as well as various educational and charitable institutions, were named as beneficiaries in the will of Mr. Davis, died for probate here to-day, shortly after the funeral services were held.

The bulk of the estate, which is variously estimated from \$10,000 to \$20,000,000, is left to the former Senator's three children, Mrs. Hallie D. Elkins, widow of Senator Stephen D. Elkins; Mrs. Arthur Lee and John T. Davis, and their children.

## WARSHIP'S NAME CHANGED

Cruiser Tennessee Will Be Known as Memphis; New Dreadnought to Bear State's Name.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Secretary Daniels announced to-day that Dreadnought No. 42, to be built in the New York Navy-Yard, would be named Tennessee, and that the armored cruiser Tennessee will have its name changed to Memphis, after the largest city in Tennessee.

A message to Captain Beach, commanding the cruiser Tennessee, notifying him of the proposed change in the cruiser's name, was dispatched by Secretary Daniels. The message was: "I have to-day given the name of Tennessee to Dreadnought No. 42, and upon the return of your ship from its trip to South America it will be known as the Memphis."

## EXPECT DECISION ON STATION SITE

Railroad Presidents Will Meet Here To-Morrow to Inspect Suggested Locations.

MAY AGREE ON FINAL PLAN

Alderman Puller Will Lay Council's Views Before Chairman Walters, of Coast Line.

Headed by President Samuel Rhea, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the board of directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company will convene in this city to-morrow morning primarily for the purpose of making a personal inspection of the sites suggested for the proposed new \$2,000,000 West End station. It is expected that the meeting will result in a definite announcement of policy on this absorbing question.

Ordinarily the regular monthly meetings of the board are held in New York. The overshadowing importance of the passenger-station issue and the pressing demand of the public and City Council for a prompt adjustment has led to a transfer of this month's meeting to Richmond, in order that the directors may look over the suggested station sites in a body.

## DIRECTORS TO DEAL ALSO WITH BELT LINE PROBLEM

The board will also deal with problems arising from the steps that have been taken by the city to acquire a right of way over the Belt Line tracks for the purpose of extending the West End avenue and, from the ordinance recently passed, requiring the company to remove the tracks of the connection railway from Broad and Belvidere Streets.

Besides the members of the board of directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, there will be present at to-morrow's meeting Henry Walters, chairman of the board of the Atlantic Coast Line, which is to join the first-named road in the construction of the West End station.

The board of directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad is composed of President William H. White; President Rhea, of the Pennsylvania; President Daniel Willard, of the Baltimore and Ohio; President W. J. Harahan, of the Seaboard Air Line; President George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio; and Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, representing the State of Virginia. All of these will attend the meeting.

## PULLER WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH WALTERS

Chairman Orndway Puller of the Council Committee on Streets has arranged for an interview with Mr. Walters in advance of the board meeting. Mr. Puller will lay before Mr. Walters the situation as it is viewed by the Council authorities. The meeting itself will be held at the railroad men, and will differ in this respect from the important meeting held in this city on February 4, when the same officials conferred with Council and Chamber of Commerce authorities on the station question.

At the February meeting Mr. Walters indicated to the Richmond men that the two railroads concerned had practically agreed on the Hermitage Club site. Plans, he said, have already been prepared for the new station and funds for the \$2,000,000 undertaking available.

## PREPONDERANCE OF OPINION IS FOR BELT LINE SITE

Opposition to the location of the new depot on the Hermitage Club site, registered in particular by the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations, was met by the statement of the railroad officials that they would take the matter under advisement. Since that meeting the question of location has been freely discussed in Council and business circles, with the result that there has developed a preponderance of opinion in favor of the Belt Line site, several blocks to the west.

To-morrow's meeting, it is believed, will result in a definite statement of policy. The board of directors informally discussed the matter at its last meeting in New York, but deferred a decision until after this month's meeting in Richmond.

## NITRATE FROM AIR

Senate Committee Considers Appropriating \$15,000,000 for Federal Plant.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Senate Committee on Agriculture has considered the bill proposed by Senator Smith, of South Carolina, which would appropriate \$15,000,000 to construct a plant for production of nitrate from the air. The committee was told that nitrate is in great demand for fertilizer, especially in the South, as well as for manufacture of war munitions, and that all the supply for the United States comes from Chile, a source that might easily be cut off by any strong naval blockade.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, when Senator Smith will urge a favorable report on the bill.

## GARRISON IN NEW YORK

Former Secretary of War Will Begin Practice of Law as Soon as Admitted to State Bar.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Landley M. Garrison, former Secretary of War, has become a resident of New York City, and as soon as admitted to the New York bar will practice law here as a member of the firm of Hornblower, Miller, Potter & Bar. It was announced by that firm to-day, Mr. Garrison was formerly a vice-chancellor of the State of New Jersey.

# TROOPS CROSS BORDER IN SEARCH OF VILLA



Photo by Horne. Copyrighted by Underwood & Underwood, New York.  
Four members of United States Cavalry viewing body of dead Mexican lying on ground after recent attack on Columbus, N. M.

## SELECT COLLEGE GROUNDS FOR SHAKESPEARE PAGEANT

Men's and Women's Committees Finally Agree on Westhampton as Most Available Site.

## TO DISCUSS TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Will Be Called Shortly to Deal Further With Problem of Carrying Public and Participants to Scene of Celebration.

It has been definitely decided by both the men's central committee and the women's committee that the Shakespeare Pageant will be held at the Richmond College grounds on May 4 and 5. This decision was reached last night by the women's committee on recommendation of the men's committee after the latter had reconsidered the proposal to have the spectacle staged at the State Fair grounds.

The men's committee found upon inquiry that the Fair grounds could not be made ready in time for the pageant even if the money were available. This led to the abandonment of the idea of staging the event there. A delegation from the women's committee, consisting of Mrs. O. P. Warwick, Dr. Orie L. Hatcher and Miss Helen D. Christian, visited W. S. Forbes, chairman of the finance committee, before deciding on Westhampton as the site for the spectacle, and were assured by him that his committee would take care of the financing of the pageant, and that plans could be prosecuted with this assurance.

A meeting of all the committees will be called within the next two days, and the question of transportation will be further discussed. If necessary, the number of participants in the pageant will be reduced.

## DIRECTOR OF PAGEANT MAKES APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

Miss Hatcher, director of the pageant, and chairman of the women's committee, made this statement last night:

"Few people understand that the proportions assumed by the interest in the Shakespeare Pageant are fully revealing to us as to the general public feeling. Fully a year ago a plan was conceived of having a small pageant of 200 or 300 people, but the plan was abandoned in January because those of us who would naturally carry the chief burden felt that the drafts upon our time would be too heavy. The interest already created, however, forced us about a month ago back into the execution of our plan, but the small undertaking from which we had felt constrained to withdraw suddenly assumed of itself proportions to be deemed only as colossal. The stimulus from such widespread interest has been enormous, but we have felt deeply the responsibilities involved. It ought to be made clear to all that we never dreamed at the beginning of having so splendid a challenge put upon our power to succeed.

"Another fact to be made clear is this, that we are still working with an empty treasury. Except for \$10 advanced by the members of one committee for admission fees, no funds at all have been received towards expenses, and yet with this empty treasury and the limited time left for preparations, we have had to equip and carry on a large pageant office, employ stenographers, disseminate information, satisfy the demand for coaches, begin to make the properties, telegraph, telephone and do innumerable other things inevitably associated with expenditure. We make no claims to satisfactory results, but in justice to ourselves explain the conditions.

## HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO ANNOUNCE SITE

"The committee has been extremely reluctant to announce any site which would seem to lessen the chances of Richmond children to have part in the celebration. We decided, after hearing the strong arguments for abandoning Westhampton, to follow the judgment of the men's committee and use the grounds of the State Fair. A few hours later word came from the men's committee that further consideration made it seem impossible for the Fair Grounds to be prepared in time, and that Westhampton was, after all, the only available place. We believe that, even with limited finances, a pageant far more worth seeing can be had at

(Continued on Second Page.)

## PREDICTS PANAMA CANAL WILL REOPEN BY APRIL 15

Colonel Harding, Acting Governor, Sends Reassuring Message to War Department.

## GOETHALS MAY NOT GO BACK

Anticipated That He Will Reoffer His Resignation as Soon as Deep Water Traffic Is Again Moving, and That Harding Will Succeed Him.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—An official prediction that the Panama Canal will be reopened by April 15 for the passage of deep draft vessels was announced to-night by the War Department. Conditions in Gaillard Cut, scene of the principal earth movement which blocked the waterway last fall, are regarded as justifying the forecast. Colonel Harding, acting Governor of the Canal Zone, telegraphed the War Department to-day as follows:

"Conditions in Gaillard Cut justify predictions that canal will be available for ships of thirty-foot draft by April 15, subject to probable temporary delays thereafter to meet exigencies of dredging fleet in completing canal to full depth and in removing shoals that may possibly develop."

Until this report came canal officials had refused since the close to make any estimate as to the probable reopening. Colonel Harding's telegram is taken to mean that short of another great movement of earth, the canal will be practically in full operation again after April 15.

## PROPOSED TRIP OF GOETHALS IS ABANDONED

Minor slides last summer caused the abandonment of plans to send the Atlantic Fleet through the canal to participate in the opening of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Serious earth movements, which resulted in the closing of the cut, began in September.

Major-General Goethals, Governor of the canal, was on leave in the United States when the canal was blocked. He had asked to be retired under the act of Congress granting him that privilege, believing his work done.

In October he hastened back to the Canal Zone, and when he found that a huge new task had been set him by nature he promptly withdrew the resignation.

General Goethals was in Washington to-day. His future plans are not known, but it is anticipated that he will reoffer his resignation as soon as deep-water traffic is again moving through the canal. Colonel Harding's telegram is so positive that it is thought probable the Governor may not return to the zone at all. Colonel Harding will succeed him.

Reopening of the great waterway is regarded as second only to the construction of the canal. Millions of tons of rock and earth have been torn out of the collapsed excavations by new dredges of a size and capacity never before employed, which have labored night and day for months.

The construction work, which is now in progress, has been proceeding without pause. When the canal is reopened it will have advanced in equipment far beyond the point it had reached when the slides began. Facilities for quick handling of ships will be much better than they were at that time and the great project closer to final completion in all details.

## LORIMER'S TRIAL BEGINS

Listens Unmoved as Assistant State's Attorney Makes Opening Address to Jury.

CHICAGO, March 15.—William Lorimer listened unmoved to-day while W. H. Holley, assistant State's attorney, ended his opening address to the jury trying him on charges connected with the collapse of his bank. The prosecution, in telling of Mr. Lorimer's private affairs and their connection with the La Salle Street Trust and Savings Bank, said:

"Lorimer did not see a chance to 'get rich quick' in the banking business, so he devoted his time to other businesses. In justice to him, I will say that when he entered into these other things he believed all would come out all right, but now he is in the same class with a clerk who appropriates a firm's money and loses it."

It is expected the defense will make its own opening statement to-morrow.

## PERSHING, AT HEAD OF 5,000 SOLDIERS, BEGINS PURSUIT

Forces of De Facto Government Are Co-Operating With Expedition.

RELIEVES GREAT ANXIETY AS TO POSSIBLE REVOLT

Little Probability of Clash With Bandits Before Friday or Saturday.

## PLANS VEILED IN SECRECY

War Department Swamped With Offers for Volunteer Service.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—With American troops across the Mexican border to-night seeking Villa and his bandits, President Wilson and officials of the War Department resigned themselves to wait possibly many days for news of developments in the chase. Information that forces of the de facto Mexican government were co-operating with the expedition from the United States served to relieve tense anxiety that had been apparent on all sides over the possibility of Carranza troops revolting against their commanders and attempting to oppose the entry of the Americans.

Although Brigadier-General Pershing and Colonel Dodd marched into Mexico with some 5,000 men about noon to-day, it was not until more than six hours afterwards that the official announcement came to Washington. It was received this evening, and Secretary Baker at once hurried to the White House for a conference with the President.

## DE FACTO GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY CO-OPERATING

At 10 o'clock the secretary made this announcement:  
"The department received to-night, in code, a message from General Funston, which announces that American troops crossed the border into Mexico to-day, but does not give the hour of the crossing. I am very happy to say that the dispatch shows that the military representative of the de facto government of Mexico not only interposed no obstacle, but appears to be co-operating."

Secretary Baker made it clear that he had not given out the whole of General Funston's dispatch. He said that while the expedition was in progress the department would make public no details which might interfere with General Funston's plans for secrecy.

Officers of the general staff were on duty at the department until late to-night, but so far as could be learned, no additional information of importance had been received. General Funston is expected to report only when there are developments, and it is generally understood that there is little probability of a clash between the American troops and the bandits before Friday or Saturday.

Reports to-night told of General Obregon, Carranza's new Secretary of War and chief military man, ordering General Gaviria, commander of the Juarez garrison, to co-operate in every way with the United States forces. This was accepted as convincing proof of the attitude of the Carranza government, and any remaining fears of treason between the Americans and soldiers of the de facto government are allayed on the possibility of insubordination or of mistaken identity.

## MAINTAINS RIGID SILENCE AS TO SITUATION ON BORDER

Throughout the day the War Department maintained rigid silence as to the situation on the border. General Funston was moving his pieces in the grim game with Villa behind a curtain of complete secrecy. It probably was the most complete censorship the country has ever known, and the department itself has not advised of the crossing until hours after the troops were on the march.

The only dispatch to the border situation received by Secretary Baker during the afternoon dealt with the departure of the Eleventh Cavalry from Chattanooga to re-enforce the border patrol.

Rumors which flew about the corridors of the War Department all day dealt with reported fighting on both sides of the border. One said a regiment of American cavalry had been annihilated, but officials had no reports on which such statements could have been founded.

Only meager news bulletins from the troops in Mexico are expected, as the four correspondents of press associations allowed to accompany General Pershing's command will be under strict censorship. Nothing that could be of value to the enemy will be permitted to pass over whatever line of communication General Pershing keeps open.

Such messages as are relayed will be very brief. At the most, the expedition will have only field radio sets to keep in touch with the border, and official reports will clog this means of transmitting news. The American people probably will hear of the chase and of the battle with the bandits, if there

## POWERFUL FORCE SENT INTO MEXICO FOR VILLA

Departure From Columbus Is Event Witnessed by Hundreds of Spectators.

## NOW 60 MILES WEST OF EL PASO

Out on Identical Hills Where Bandit Chief Led Gang Stealthily Up to Border to Make Maudlin Drive on American City.

EL PASO, TEX., March 15.—American troops were on Mexican soil to-night sixty miles west of here, the vanguard of an expedition gathered in less than a week, but one of the most powerful forces assembled by this country since the Spanish-American War. They were out on the identical hills where a week ago to-night Francisco Villa led 1,000 of his bandits stealthily up to the American border to make an early morning rush among the sleeping American city of Columbus, N. M., and murdered seventeen Americans, eight of them soldiers, and a woman.

The elements of the armament of this force, its numbers and the direction or directions in which its various columns headed after they passed the international line, was a secret held by the military censorship.

## HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS WITNESS DEPARTURE

The one important fact that the Americans had gone into Mexico again was an event witnessed by hundreds of spectators who crowded into Columbus, Texas, to see the troops move off towards the boundary line, until when the men crossed they were tiny, but distinct, brown lines in the distance in the clear Western air. As the troops passed farther into the low gravel hills, clouds of white dust hid the men and their further movements as effectually as the censorship. Behind the troops who moved forward, new regiments rapidly filled the vacated camps in Columbus. The Eleventh Cavalry, of Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., was one of the new arrivals.

More new regiments are expected to follow, but officers would not say how soon nor from what points. The disposition of the First Aeroplane Squadron, which passed West through here last night, load 1 on flat cars, was one of the most interesting of the military scenes, being the first actual campaign test of this new arm of the service.

Unofficial reports came into El Paso that about fifty miles west of Columbus, near Hachita, N. M., another column had gathered and probably had entered Mexico. Nothing more definite than the fact of this column's existence was established, despite reports that these troops might have gone in first.

## SOUTHERN TO ISSUE BONDS

Will Use Proceeds for Double-Tracking Line Between Cornelia, Ga. and Central, S. C.

ATLANTA, GA., March 15.—The State Railway Commission to-day authorized the Southern Railway Company to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds, the proceeds of which are to be used for double-tracking its line for fifty-six miles between Cornelia, Ga., and Central, S. C., and other improvements. The \$5,000,000 is part of a \$20,000,000 first-mortgage serial bond loan. The loan authorized is made on a first-mortgage lien on the Charlotte Air Line Railway, leased by the Southern Railway.

## UNITED STATES NEUTRAL

Wilson Signs Proclamation Barring on War Between Portugal and Germany.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—President Wilson has signed a proclamation giving notice of the neutrality of the United States in the state of war between Germany and Portugal. The proclamation follows the text of others.